

are likely witnessing the early stages in a sea change regarding the dollar, inflation and the stock market, as well as commodity prices. The nervousness in the stock and bond markets, and especially in the NASDAQ, indicates that the Congress may soon be facing an entirely different set of financial numbers regarding spending, revenues, interest costs on our national debt and the value of the U.S. dollar.

Price inflation of the conventional type will surely return, even if the economy slows. Fiscal policy and current monetary policy will not solve the crisis we will soon face. Only sound money, money that cannot be created out of thin air, can solve the many problems appearing on the horizon. The sooner we pay attention to monetary policy as the source of our international financial problems, the sooner we will come up with a sound solution.

HALT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANTHRAX VACCINATION IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to address an issue of critical importance to many Gulf War veterans across our country. Today I sent a letter to Secretary of Defense William Cohen asking for an immediate halt to the Department of Defense anthrax vaccination immunization program. I am grateful 34 of my colleagues have cosigned this letter. They share my deep concerns regarding this flawed defense policy and the urgent need to suspend the program until the Department of Defense obtains approval for use of an improved vaccine.

The following developments in recent months confirm my concerns regarding this program and its impact on the health and morale of our military service members.

The Institute of Medicine Committee on Health Effects Associated With Exposures During the Gulf War, in response to a Department of Defense request, provided a report which stated in summary: "The committee concludes that in the peer-reviewed literature, there is inadequate/insufficient evidence to determine whether an association does or does not exist between anthrax vaccination and long-term adverse health outcomes."

An internal legal memo written in March by two Air Force Reserve judge advocates addressed the following crucial question: Are orders currently being given to Members of the U.S. Armed Forces to submit to anthrax vaccinations consistent with Federal law? In summary, the response stated: "Orders currently being given to Members of the United States Armed Forces to submit to anthrax vaccinations are

illegal because they contradict the express terms of Presidential Executive Order 13139 and 10 U.S.C. Section 1107 of 1999."

On March 22, 2000, the Inspector General, Department of Defense, issued an audit report that documents troubling financial management practices and multiple deficiencies cited by FDA that continue to compromise the program.

The House Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations issued a report on February 17 that was approved and adopted by the full Committee on Government Reform. After a thorough review of the current relevant scientific data and compelling testimony, the subcommittee recommended: "The force-wide mandatory anthrax vaccination immunization program, until the Department of Defense obtains approval for use of an improved vaccine, should be suspended." It went on to conclude that "use of current anthrax vaccines for force protection against biological warfare should be considered experimental and undertaken only pursuant to FDA regulations governing investigational testing."

The American Public Health Association Governing Council adopted a policy statement November 10, 1999, urging DOD "to delay any further immunization against anthrax using the current vaccine, or at least to make immunization voluntary."

The General Accounting Office presented testimony on October 12, 1999, before the House Committee on Government Reform and stated among other concerns that "long-term safety of the licensed vaccine has not been studied."

These adverse symptoms are not new. I held a hearing in my district some time ago and invited Gulf War veterans who were having health problems they believed to be related to the injections they received. I was shocked at the number that came and testified who were truly ill and were not getting recognition of their problems, nor even needed medical help.

It is clear that the Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program, while well intended, is a flawed policy that should immediately be stopped and reexamined in the light of the growing preponderance of evidence challenging the Department of Defense position. I am calling on Secretary Cohen to take immediate action to suspend the AVIP until DOD complies with the recommendations of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations.

I hope this action will send a clear signal to our men and women in uniform. This seriously flawed program does not meet the high standards they deserve.

INSIGHT INTO CAUSES OF RE-NEWED ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia, (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen recent news reports of renewed confrontations between Palestinians and the Israelis. This violence is deeply troubling and cannot be condoned. It is all the more worrisome because the deadline for concluding a Final Status Agreement is quickly approaching. I think it is fair to say that we all hoped the days of such confrontation had passed.

Israel's legitimate interests in stopping terrorism and achieving security are well understood and strongly supported in Washington. Sources of Palestinian frustration, however, are less well known.

The Palestinian aggravation that boiled over recently stems from their view that seven years of peace negotiations have produced few tangible improvements in the lives of Palestinians.

For example, Mr. Speaker, Palestinians continue to see their land confiscated by Israel for the building of roads and Israeli settlements. This issue, among all others may be the most frustrating to Palestinians. Gaining control of their land is the Palestinian goal in peace negotiations. Watching land confiscations continue while negotiating deadlines pass undermines confidence among Palestinians that the peace process is worthwhile.

I would like to share with my colleagues an editorial on land confiscations that appeared recently in the Chicago Tribune. It is written by the head of the Palestinian Final Status Negotiating Team, Yasser Abed Rabbo, and it explains clearly the Palestinian viewpoint on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, achieving a peaceful, stable Middle East is in America's best interest. We have therefore spent considerable time and resources supporting that goal. Israelis and Palestinians have all suffered tremendously because of their on-going conflict and the majority of both peoples clearly long for peace. All parties must renew their efforts and truly seek compromise on their remaining differences so that Israeli and Palestinian people alike see real benefits in peace and support negotiated agreements.

I submit the Editorial written by Palestinian chief negotiator, Yasser Rabbo, from the April 27, 2000 edition of the Chicago Tribune, entitled: "Israeli Settlements Undermine Change for Peace in the Middle East," for the RECORD.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Apr. 27, 2000]

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS UNDERMINE CHANCE FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

(By Yasser Abed Rabbo)

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process is based on the acceptance of both sides that no action will be taken that will prejudice the final negotiated arrangement.

From the Palestinian perspective, continued Israeli confiscation of land and the construction of new Israeli settlements, whether approved by previous governments or not, prejudices the final outcome more than all other actions combined. A day does not go by that Palestinians are not confronted by